

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 20 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4 and 15-17 have each been amended and claims 1, 2, 6-14 and 18-20 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 14, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication in item 3 of the Office Action that claims 15 and 17 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 15 has been rewritten into independent to include the features of base claim 14. Thus, new independent claim 15 is believed to be allowable.

In addition, it is submitted that the remaining claims 3, 4, 16 and 17 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth below.

As to the Merits:

Claims 1-14, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 25 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Velayudhan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,803,890).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 3 calls for *a set period in which the voltage of both ends of the light emitting element whose lighting is to be driven in a scan period is set at a predetermined voltage value at a beginning of said scan period.* Independent claim 16 includes similar features.

Independent claim 4 calls for *a set period in which the voltage of both ends of the light emitting element whose lighting is to be driven in a scan period is set at a predetermined voltage value immediately before a scan period.* Independent claim 17 includes for similar features.

With regard to claims 3, 4, 16 and 17, it is respectfully submitted that Velayudhan fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of these claims concerning “*a set period in which the voltage of both ends of the light emitting element ... is set at a predetermined voltage value.*”

That is, in the region A of Fig. 3 of Velayudhan, it is not shown that the predetermined voltage V_{ref} is applied before the predetermined voltage V_{ref} intersects with the time axis and

following increases. The Fig. 3 is obviously an excerpt from a part of the waveform of Fig. 5a under a.c. drive, and there is no period of time like “a set period” as required in these claims before the excerpt waveform corresponding to Fig. 3 in the waveform of Fig. 5.

In addition, it is submitted that Velayudhan fails to disclose or fairly suggest that “a set period for applying predetermined voltage” is set before scanning or at the beginning of a scanning period in the disclosure of Velayudhan. Because the invention of Velayudhan is for a.c. drive, there is no reason for “a set period” to be provided.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Velayudhan fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 3 regarding *a set period in which the voltage of both ends of the light emitting element whose lighting is to be driven in a scan period is set at a predetermined voltage value at a beginning of said scan period*, and claim 4 regarding *a set period in which the voltage of both ends of the light emitting element whose lighting is to be driven in a scan period is set at a predetermined voltage value immediately before a scan period*.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

Response
Application No. 10/788,465
Attorney Docket No. 042151

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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